

PETER THE GREAT.

His Famous Political Testament--A Policy of Limitless Aggression and War.

The following is the text of the famous will of Peter the Great of Russia. This document was confidentially deposited in the hands of the Abbe de Bernis, Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1757, and also in those of Louis XV. See the "Memories of the Chevalier d'Est," 1 p. 17.

A copy is also to be found in the diplomatic archives of France, and a transcript of this appears in the volume, "Politique de la Russie en Orient, par Victor Marquis," from which this document is taken:

In the name of the Most Holy and Indivisible Trinity, we, Peter the First, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russians, etc., to all our descendants and successors to the throne and government of the Russian nation:

God, from whom we derive our existence, and to whom we owe our crown, having constantly enlightened us by His spirit and sustained us by His divine help, allows me to look on the Russian people as called upon hereafter to hold sway over Europe. My reason for thus thinking is that the European nations have mostly reached a state of old age, bordering on imbecility, or they are rapidly approaching it. Naturally, then, they will be easily and indubitably conquered by a people strong in youth and vigor, especially when this latter shall have attained its full strength and vigor. I look on the future invasion of the eastern and western countries by the north as a periodical movement, ordained by Providence, who, in like manner, regenerated the Roman nation by barbarian invasions. These invasions of men from the north are at the reflux of the Nile, which, at certain periods, comes to fertilize the impoverished lands of Egypt by its deposit. I found Russia as a rivulet; I leave it a river. My successors will leave it a large sea, destined to fertilize the impoverished lands of Europe; and its waters will overflow in spite of opposing dams, erected by weak hands; if our descendants only know how to direct its course. This is the reason I leave them the following instructions. I give these countries to the watchfulness and care, as Moses gave the Temple of the Law to the Jewish people.

I. Keep the Russian nation in a state of continual war, so as to have the soldier always under arms and ready for action, excepting when then the finances of the State will not allow of it. Keep up the forces; choose the best moment for attack. By these means you will be ready for war even in the time of peace. This is for the interest of the future aggrandizement of Russia.

II. Endeavor, by every possible means, to bring in from the neighboring civilized countries of Europe, officers in times of war and learned men in times of peace, thus giving the Russian people the advantages enjoyed by other countries, without allowing them to lose any of their own self-respect.

III. On every occasion take a part in the affairs and quarrels of Europe, above all in those of Germany, which country, being the nearest, more immediately concerns us.

IV. Divide Poland, by exciting civil dissension there, win over the nobility by bribery; corrupt the Diet, so as to have influence in the election of Kings; get partisans into office--protect them; bring to subvert there the Muscovite troops, until such time as they can be permanently established there. If the neighboring powers start difficulties, appease them for a time by parceling out the country, until you can relate in detail all that has been done.

V. Take as much as you can from Sweden, and cause yourselves to be attacked by her, so as to have a pretext for subduing her. To accomplish this, sever Denmark from Sweden, and Sweden from Denmark, carefully keeping up their rivalries.

VI. Always choose as wives for the Russian princes German princesses, so as to increase family alliances to draw mutual interests closer, and by propagating our principles in Germany to enlist her in our cause.

VII. England requiring us for her navy, and she being the only power that can aid in the development of ours, seek a commercial alliance with her in preference to any other. Exchange our wool and the productions of our land for her gold, and establish between her merchants, her sailors, and ours, a continual intercourse; this will aid in perfecting the Russian fleet for navigation and commerce.

VIII. Extend your possessions towards the north, along the Baltic, and towards the south, by the Black Sea.

IX. Approach as near as possible to Constantinople and its entourage. He who shall reign there will be the true sovereign of the world. Consequently he continually at war--sometimes with the Turks, sometimes with Persia. Establish dockyards on the Black Sea, get entire possession of it by degrees, use of the Baltic

Sea, this being necessary to the accomplishment of the plan. Hasten the decline of Persia, penetrate the Persian Gulf; re-establish, if possible, the ancient commerce of the Levant through Syria, and make your way to the Indies; they are the emperors of the world. Once there, you can do without the gold of England.

X. Seek and carefully keep up an alliance with Austria; acquiesce, in her ideas of dominating over Germany, at the same time clandestinely exciting against her the jealousy of the neighboring provinces, endeavor that the aid of Russia should be called for by one and the other, so that by exercising a kind of guardianship over the country, you prepare a way for governing hereafter.

XI. Give the House of Austria an interest for joining in banishing the Turks from Europe; defraud her of her share of the booty, at the conquest of Constantinople, either by raising a war for her with the ancient States of Europe, or by giving her a portion which you will take back at a future period.

XII. Attack to yourself, and assemble around you, all the united Greeks, as also the disunited or schismatics, which are scattered either in Hungary, Turkey, or the South of Poland. Make yourselves their centers, their chief support, and lay the foundation of universal supremacy by establishing a kind of royalty or sacralized government; the Selavonic Greeks will be so many friends that you will have scattered among your enemies.

XIII. Sweden severed, Persia and Turkey conquered, Poland subjugated, our armies reuniting the Black and Baltic Seas guarded by our vessels, you must make propositions separately and discretely--first to the Court of Versailles, and then to that of Vienna, to share with them the empire of the universe. If one of them accept--and it cannot be otherwise, so as you flatter their pride and ambition--make use of it to crush the other; then crush, in its turn, the surviving one by engaging with it in a death struggle, the issue of which cannot be doubtful. Russia possessing already all the East and a great part of Europe!

XIV. If, which is not likely, both refuse the propositions of Russia, you must manage to raise quarrels for them, and make them exhaust one another; then, profiting by a decisive moment, Russia will bring down her assembled troops on Germany; at the same time, two considerable fleets will set out--the one from the sea of Azov, the other from the port of Archangel--loaded with Arctic burdens, under the convoy of the armed fleets from the Black Sea and the Baltic. Advancing by the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean, they will invade France on one side, while Germany will already have been invaded on the other. These countries conquered, the rest of Europe will easily pass under the yoke without striking a blow.

XV. Thus Europe can and ought to be subdued. **PETER I.**
Autocrat of all the Russias.

Queen Alexandrina Victoria.

It is not very generally known that the Queen was once called Queen Alexandrina Victoria, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that Her Majesty was originally proclaimed, and the oaths of allegiance administered to her, in the name of "Alexandrina Victoria," and she would so have been called to this day had it not been for a curious accident. On the occasion of the Council meeting held "at the Court at Kensington," June 20, 1837, it was discovered that she had affixed her signature as "Victoria" to the list of the Privy Councillors present. Alexandrina was, therefore, immediately unseated, although during the audiences in the city and elsewhere the Queen was always addressed as Her Most Gracious Majesty Alexandrina Victoria. It is not generally known, either, that the Queen of England never wore, officially any State robes, excepting only at her coronation, when she goes to Westminster Abbey in crimson, and is there invested with purple, and when she visits Parliament, when she is attired in red. *--Mackay Shand.*

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